

Name _____

Date _____

Hero or Traitor

Directions: Was Nathaniel Bacon a hero or a traitor? Review the evidence to develop your own informed opinion. Consider whether each of the following facts are a plus (+) or minus (-) in Bacon's favor. Place the plus or minus sign beside each statement.

_____ A. Nathaniel Bacon stood up to a government that did not adequately protect people on the frontier.

_____ B. Bacon attacked both friendly and hostile Indians.

_____ C. Bacon promised to protect the families of his followers.

_____ D. Bacon was appointed to the Council by Governor Berkeley without living in the colony very long. (exception to normal guidelines)

_____ E. Bacon protested unfair taxation, building of forts, and corrupt practices by Berkeley's government.

_____ F. Bacon was related to Governor Berkeley's wife.

_____ G. Bacon spent little time at the Council meetings, apparently he did not try reforming the government from the inside.

_____ H. Bacon rallied up to 600 people to his cause, including more than 80 blacks.

_____ I. Bacon's Rebellion encouraged disloyalty to the colonial government and England.

_____ J. Bacon's friends encouraged him to lead them in fighting against the Indian tribes.

_____ K. Bacon was willing to stand up for people who were not rich, including former indentured servants and slaves.

____L. Bacon and his men destroyed Jamestown, the capital of Virginia, by burning it.

____M. Bacon knew fighting the Indians without the governor's authority was against colonial law.

____N. Bacon was denied a commission to fight the Indians until Berkeley was coerced.

____O. Bacon resumed his rebellion after the governor had publicly forgiven him and reinstated him into the House of Burgesses. Apparently, Berkeley was about to attempt another arrest of Bacon.

____P. Bacon's Rebellion aggravated existing rivalries between the rich and the less privileged classes.

____Q. Does Bacon or any citizen have the right to obey only the orders he or she agrees with and disobey the ones he does not agree with?

____R. Nathaniel Bacon and his followers raided neighboring plantations of the wealthy to feed his army.

Summary: Look above at your plus and minuses. If you have a total number greater than zero (positive number), your number indicates that you see Nathaniel Bacon as a hero. If your total number is below zero (negative number), your number suggest that you feel his actions were wrong, a traitor. Please summarize your analysis of Bacon's Rebellion in a three paragraph paper. After seeing the video clips and discussing questions with your classmates. Tell honestly how you feel about Nathaniel Bacon and his actions. You can add your values to your comments. (Ex. If you feel violence is wrong or you cheer for someone who challenges authority) Please add these thoughts to your summary.